NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

May 5, 1995

CRITTER PATROL WINS VICTORIES!

Congratulations to **Tony Valentino** and **Sue Coons** for sighting the latest outbreak of the ferocious webbing clothes moth and alerting Conservation and Facilities Management quickly enough to keep them (the moths) from completely swamping Shipping. And many thanks to **Jim Simms, George Robinson, Andy Pavasars, Danny Moran** and **Mike Shouba** for pitching in with vacuum cleaner, screwdriver, pry bar, forklift and hacksaw to get the beasts out of the building.

MORE

REPAIR WORK FOR MERIDIAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM

On Wednesday, May 9, an Ameritech technician will do repair work on the telephone system before the switchboard opens in the morning. While the repair work is being completed, some areas of the building will experience no telephone services.

All public phones will be functional, as well as the Security Console phone.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Pat Phillips (x216)

BIOCHEMISTRY LAB RENOVATIONS COMPLETED

The renovations to the Biochemistry Laboratories, partially funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, have been essentially completed. The renovations include significant improvements to the air conditioning and ventilation system, upgrading the electrical service, and the installation of new laboratory furniture. The Biochemistry Laboratories are a core facility provided for Field Museum curators, staff, and students to conduct research projects in molecular systematics and other disciplines that employ the technologies of biochemistry and molecular biology.

The successful completion of this project absolutely depended upon the help and assistance of many people. Without their help Field Museum would not have obtained a good facility. The persistence and tenacity of project managers **Frantz Cartright** and **Albert Thewis** of CATH Associates ensured that the project was completed economically. The contractors' access to the construction area required their passage through sensitive areas of the *Traveling the Pacific* exhibit, and their effects on exhibits had to be minimized. In this regard, the cooperation and help of **Dianne Hanau-Strain**, **Chris Gross**, **Laura Gates**, and especially the trust of **Phyllis Rabineau** and **Kurt Oldenbrook**, are gratefully acknowledged. The entire Security Staff provided all kinds of assistance throughout the construction.

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BIOCHEM LAB continued from first page

Especially helpful--many times--were **John Blatchford**, **Andy Bluntson**, **Derek McGlorthan**, and **Mark Torbeck**. Thanks also to the Botany Department and **Christine Niezgoda** for loaning storage space during the project; to the Division of Birds and **Dave Willard** for generously providing temporary desk space in the Bird range; to Housekeeping and **Jim Simms** and **Suzanne Coons** for cleaning materials and help; to **Jim Koeppl**, **Peter Lowther**, and the Computing Department for patiently enduring several months of dislocation, noise, dirt, and dust; to **Larry Thompson** for teaching John Hall effective mopping techniques; and to **Jim Croft** for sound advice and support throughout the project. There are many others who provided help. Apologies to the others whose names have been left out because of space limitations and a poor memory.

John Hall

LEMAN PRESIDES AT INAUGURAL

On May 1, 1995, **Andrew Leman** (Geology) served as M.C. at the 1995 City of Chicago inauguration ceremony. Mayor Richard Daley, Treasurer Miriam Santos, City Clerk Jim Laski, and all fifty Aldermen and women were sworn in. In attendence were Governor Edgar, Illinois Chief Justice Michael Bilandic, and dozens of other city, county, and state officials. Andrew got involved through his connections at the Chicago Cultural Center, where he has been a member of the Shaw Chicago ensemble for two years. The various elected officials were guarded by pretty high security, but Andrew did get the chance to shake the Mayor's hand after the ceremony.

SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA DISCOUNT COUPONS

Six Flags Great America is offering a 1995 V.I.P. Card Program for savings on family fun!

The V.I.P. Card Program will offer you a savings of $4 on Adult Summer Tickets and up to $10 on a Season Pass.

New this year is the VIPER! A single-track wooden coaster sends its riders down a 100-foot drop at a dramatic 53-degree angle, and features ten additional untamed drops! VIPER is the ninth coaster in Six Flags Great America's Arsenal of Thrills!

There are a limited number of tickets and they will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. They are available in the Personnel Office.

"ARTIKISM" FEATURES HUG

Heather Hug (Museum Store) will be showing artwork with fifteen other Chicago artists in "Artikism," a show about inner consciousness and spirituality as creative forces. The exhibit will be from 5:00 p.m. -- 12:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 1995 at 1255 South Wabash in The 1255 Experience. Everybody is welcome!

FIELD STAFF JOIN "WHY ME" RACE

Janice Klein and other members of the Museum staff will be participating in this year's "Y-ME Race Against Breast Cancer." This event -- on Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day) -- involves either a 5k run or a 2m. walk. Interested in joining -- or in pledging money ? Contact **Janice** (x442).

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

SCOTT LIDGARD PARTICIPATES IN NSF GRANT REVIEWS

Scott Lidgard recently returned from a week in lovely Ballston, Virginia, where cherry trees and dogwoods are already blooming near the National Science Foundation headquarters. Scott participated in the review process as a member of the Spring Systematic Biology Panel, which recommends funding for research grants in systematics. The Panel discussed 123 proposals in a very intense three-day session, and will meet again in October. This time around, Scott only had to stand in the hall three times when Field Museum proposals were being discussed!

WELCOME TOM GNOSKE

On April 22, **Tom Gnoske** joined the professional staff of the Zoology Department as a technical assistant with the bird collection. Tom began his career at The Field Museum as a preparator volunteer. For the last five years, Tom has worked as a preparator through grants from the National Science Foundation. We are all glad that Tom agreed to join our staff. Welcome aboard!

ZOOLOGY RUNNERS EXPLORE LAKE COUNTY

Two Zoology curators surveyed the local fauna during last weekend's Lake County Races. **Bill Ballard**, new curator of insects, pronounced himself "unfit" and ran a 3 hour 20 minute marathon (26.2 miles) "as a training run." **Barry Chernoff** (Zoology, Fishes) participated in the half-marathon (13.1 miles) and finished with a personal best of 1 hour 43 minutes. Despite the inhospitable weather, neither curator discovered species new to Lake County.

A running group departs each workday at 4:30 p.m. from the North Door. All are invited to join this afternoon jog -- no matter how far or how fast you go, we all start together.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon for May 2, 1995 was given by **Dr. Bennet Bronson,** Chair, Department of Anthropology and Curator of Asian Archaeology and Ethnology. Ben discussed the role of technology and commerce in the development of human societies. He described progress on a joint three year effort headed by Adjunct Assistant Curator Chuimei Ho focused on the production of ceramic materials in Fujian Province, China, and the export trade in Southeast Asia. Cooperative work with Professor Ye Wencheng, Xiamen University has developed access to collections of pottery produced in certain counties of Fujian Provience. Because most of Fujian Provience is mountainous, little land is suitable for farming. Endeavours such as fishing, manufacture and trade, and sojourn workers were well established by 800 AD. Ceramics were manufactured on a very large scale using kilns as great as 100 meters long and capable of the high temperatures required to produce fine glazes. The provincial mountains presented a significant barrier to trade within China. However,

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NOON BALLOON continued

numerous suitable coastal harbors afforded access via the China Sea to virtually all of Southeast Asia. The provincial mountains were a barrier to internal governmental controls as well. Consequently, local entrepreneurs flourished long before europeans came to the Orient. Although detailed documentation of many aspects of life in China during the past 2,000 years exists today, information concerning economic activities in Fujian Province is highly biased. This is especially true for the manufacture and export of ceramics because it was simply illegal to export these materials. On the local level distinctive designs were mass produced. Thus it is possible to actually cross link a specific Fujianese kiln site with ceramic artifacts found elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

ATTENTION ALL ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, CCUC AND CEEB STAFF

Natural News articles are frequently used in other Academic Affairs reports on Museum activities, such as the President's Bimonthly Report to the Board of Trustees. To assure that your work receives proper recognition in all forums, please route all official *Natural News* articles and notices through the Office of Academic Affairs, c/o **Lori Breslauer.** (Of course, unofficial articles such as baby announcements or notes on leisure time activities may be submitted directly to the *Natural News.*) Articles should be left in the specially-marked box in the Academic Affairs Office by 10:00 a.m. Tuesday morning. If possible, please provide the information on a 3.5" diskette along with a hard copy. Thank you!

NEW JOB OPENINGS

Below is the latest job opportunity in the Museum. For further information and previous job openings, please check the Career Opportunities listing published by the Personnel Department.

Exhibit Designer I (2 full-time/term positions)

SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

The Field Museum softball team, The Dead Animal Zoo, is open to all employees and volunteers at The Field Museum, as well as their friends, family, colleagues, and random strangers. It is open to all departments, not just the third and fourth floors. There are no tryouts or rosters -- anyone who wants to play can just show up.

Tuesday, May 9	PRACTICE -- Grant Park
Thursday, May 18	vs. Museum of Contemporary Art -- Grant Park
Thursday, May 25	vs. Lincoln Park Zoo -- Lincoln Park

Due to space considerations, the rest of the schedule will be printed next week.

All games begin at 5:45 p.m. **Grant Park** games are held in Arvey Field, across the street from the Museum (near the statue of Chris Columbus). Pre-game practice begins at 4:30 p.m. **Lincoln Park** games are held behind the Historical Society, at North Ave. and State St. Pre-game practice begins at 5:00 p.m. We are still in desperate need of a coach for this season. If you can hold a clipboard and look official, come to the first practice session and try it out.